

# FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

612 Royal Gorge Blvd. Cañon City, Co. | 719-269-9036

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719-269-9036

[www.fremontheritage.com](http://www.fremontheritage.com)

## Memberships to the Museum

Become a member to support our history & history to come.

Individuals cost is \$10.00

Couples cost is \$15.00

Families cost is \$20.00

Organizations cost is \$25.00

Life members cost is \$150.00

Friends of the Museum & History Center, P.O. Box 481, Cañon City, CO 81215-0481

## Old Timey Movies

Join us once again at the museum for some entertainment, popcorn, and fun on

September 23 and 24 at 6:30.

Thursday evening will feature *White Buffalo* filmed in Cañon City starring Charles Bronson, Jack Warden, Will Sampson and Kim Novak. "At the closing of 1874 a haunted, dying Wild Bill Hickok teams up with a grieving Crazy Horse to hunt a murderous albino buffalo". As the poster says, "You Won't Believe Your Eyes?"



*Unseen Enemies* will be shown on Friday evening. It is a silent movie made in 1925 telling the following story: "A valuable ranch lands in the hands of "Bingo" Strook when "Dad" Davenport dies and leaves two young boys." The film stars Al Hoxie, Claire Anderson, Catherine Craig, and Bob Kortman.

A \$4.00 donation is suggested and the popcorn is free. Attendance is limited to 30 people. Call the museum to register or register online at <https://museum.canoncity.org> under the Calendar.

## History in the Making

**Morning Line** - Remember to tune in to 1400 KRLN the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month to hear news, stories and information from the museum.

**Old Timers Coffees** will be returning on Thursday, October 28 at 9:00 a.m. with a discussion on Historic Buildings of Cañon and their preservation.

**Reuniting Families** - Do you have a family heirloom that needs to be preserved but your family doesn't want it? The museum is always willing to consider donations to add to their collection.

**Virtual Genealogy Classes** - School Days, School Days! will be our Zoom topic of discussion on September 18th at 9:00 a.m. and Christmas Is Coming... on October 9th at 9:00 a.m. You can register by calling the museum.

Follow the museum's activities on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/rgmhc). Simply look for the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center to get tuned in to all the articles and activities.

If you are interested in viewing photos from the museum's collection, follow us on instagram at [rgmhc](https://www.instagram.com/rgmhc).

Check the museum's calendar for the schedule of all activities, registration and waiver forms.

<https://museum.canoncity.org>

## Introducing Our New Curator Keith Wondra

The museum's new curator, Keith Wondra, started work on June 3rd. A native of Wichita, Kansas, he graduated from Wichita State University with both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in history. Before coming to Cañon City, Keith was the assistant curator at Old Cowtown Museum in Wichita where he was responsible for a collection of over 12,000 artifacts along with exhibits in 40 historic and replica buildings. Keith's favorite hobbies are photography and reading. He is currently researching the history of Cañon City city departments for a sesquicentennial exhibit which is planned to open in March 2022. Be sure to stop by the office to welcome Keith to the area.



## Honoring Female Veterans

Summer enjoyed a welcome kickoff on May 29th in Lakeside Cemetery. Lisa Studts welcomed a group of family, friends and retired military members and acknowledged the many hours of work done by Luise Barton to identify the women veterans in Lakeside. She introduced Betty Hanawalt who regaled us with stories of her introduction to the Army, tales of her many transfers and military life with a family.





The group visited the gravesites of Margaret Langill, Donna Lester, Amelia Lukassen, Blanche Nelsen, Joan Nelson, Mary Pardue, Phyllis Reasoner, Lois Telck, Martha Vezzetti and Eunice Vipond and heard the stories of their service. These women served in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines in the Civil War, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. If you know of a female veteran buried in the cemetery, please give her name to the museum so that her story may be included in future programs.

## Digitizing in Progress

The Friends have made a donation to the museum for the digitizing of several 8 mm films. They include seven films from the Dr. Kon Wyatt collection that are home movies of different local parades from the mid to late 1930s. Two home movies “Pet Parade” and “Boat Race” came from former volunteer Ron Lautaret and finally a couple of films that are noted as being of the “Blossom Parade” or “Blossom Festival” will all be digitized for future enjoyment.

## Friends Annual Meeting



Members gathered on Saturday, June 5th to elect officers, to celebrate the accomplishments during a very difficult year and to listen to a special program. Chair, Gerrie Collette welcomed everyone, conducted a short business meeting and gave a brief overview of the importance of the apple in Fremont County agriculture. Lisa Studts, museum director, outlined the year’s accomplishments including the completion of Phase 3 work to rehabilitate the Rudd House.

Jim Nelson presented the program “From Ditch to Dinner Table” where he talked about the importance of water to agriculture, the crops that were grown in the county and their significance to the county’s development and the state’s economy, the challenges faced by growers, and the processors and shippers who distributed the produce throughout the state and country. On a positive note, agricultural crop production and processing is returning with farm income up over 140%. Let’s support our local growers!



## Day of the Cowboy

It was standing room only on Saturday, July 31, when the Friends welcomed Grant Adkisson. After surveying the audiences' footwear, Gerrie Colette "kicked off" the program by explaining that cows not only provide the leather for our shoes and boots and the meat we eat but also the glue that holds so many things together. She then discussed the role of the cowboy and introduced Grant.



A lifelong resident of the area, he talked about his grandfather walking from Virginia to Missouri as a young boy, acquiring some cattle in Kansas and eventually settling in Weld County where he went on to become sheriff and was honored for his service. He recounted some of his personal adventures in ranch life here in Fremont County, talked about the full-day tasks in branding, and acknowledged the role that many of the local ranchers had on his life. He concluded describing his work ministering to the

cowboy community, wounded warriors and military widows.

Note: All of the museum's programs are recorded and may be viewed on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) at the Royal Gorge Museum and History Center site and on Channel 191.

## Purple Heart Walking Tour

Lakeside Cemetery was once again the gathering place on Saturday, August 7th to visit the gravesites and hear the stories of veterans who have received the Purple Heart. Lakeside Cemetery volunteer Luise Barton reminded us of the rules of cemetery etiquette and Education Coordinator Jessica Wortman introduced the program by giving the history of the Purple Heart. Guest Tim Grabin brought and showed his grandfather Woodrow Epperson's Purple Heart. He also surprised us at the first gravesite by recalling his own childhood memories earning pennies by working for veteran Ralph Leruth.





Jessica presented biographies of: Ralph Leruth, Charles Canterbury, Albe Baca, Guy Carter, Phillip Stumph, Charles Colon, Augustine Abeyta, and Clifford Cathcart. She described the campaigns that these men fought in in World War I, World War II, and Vietnam and the actions that earned them Purple Hearts. It must also be recognized that many of these men received the Bronze Star as well as campaign medals for their service.

## Meet Education Coordinator Jessica Wortman

No stranger to the area, Education Coordinator Jessica Wortman is a Cañon City native and CCHS graduate. A graduate of Fort Lewis College, she has had the pleasure of working with some great organizations, often in an outdoor education capacity, organizations such as Copper Mountain Ski Area, Durango Nature Studies, Friends of the Dillon Ranger District, and the Pacific Whale Foundation in Maui, Hawaii.

Her family has rich history here. Jessica is the 4<sup>th</sup> generation in her family to live in Cañon City with her great-grandparents arriving here in the 1920's. In 1947, while working as a guard at Old Max, her great-grandfather Joe Gray was injured during the famous prison break. In the late 1950's, in the first years that Buckskin Joe was open, her grandparents Dave and Phyllis Ashton managed the Buckskin Joe Wells Fargo Stagecoach and Riding Stables. Her parents, Dr. Joe and Diane Ashton owned Ashton Chiropractic from 1976-2014.



Jessica came back to call Cañon home again in 2015. She and her husband Warren love the area and as outdoors enthusiasts take advantage of all the beauty this area has to offer. She is excited to be working with the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center.



**The Artist Gallery**

416 Main Street, Cañon City

(719) 345-4070

**Brady Realty**

Randy Brady  
719-423-9745

*Royal Gorge Lodge*



**Come Join Us!**

**2021 Events**

**Wine Tasting**

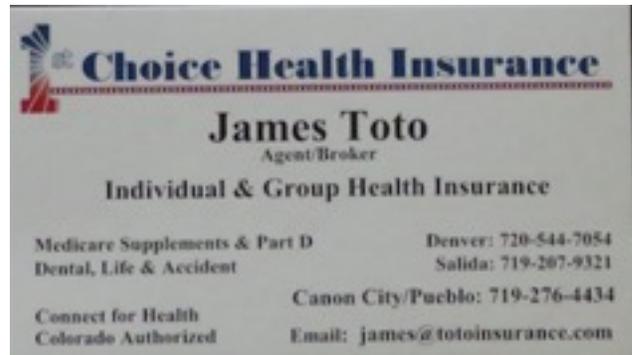
**October 10th**

**Spaghetti Dinner**

**November 7th**

**Details & More Events at**

**[osiaroyalgorge2866.com](http://osiaroyalgorge2866.com)**



Office: 719.269.1212 ~ JoAnn: 719.429.2345  
 1212 Main Street  
**HOME TOWN**  
 REAL ESTATE OF CAÑON CITY  
  
**JoAnn Grenard**  
*Managing Broker*  
 My 38 years of experience and results have earned me the status of #1 REALTOR in Cañon for the past 6 years!\*

\* Based on information from the Royal Gorge Association of REALTORS®/MLS for the period 1/1/12 through 12/1/17 interpreted by JoAnn Grenard of Home Town Real Estate